

Message Text

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USLOSACLANT PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 278388

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC

SUBJECT: ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES FOR THE SPRING DEFENSE
REVIEW

REF: USNATO 6294 DTG 191130Z NOV 75

HOLD FORHOPENING OF BUSINESS.

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1. CONCUR WITH MISSION VIEWS.

2. WE ATTACH SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO CONCEPT OF REGIONAL REVIEWS IN REGIONAL LOCATIONS AS FEEDING INTO SPRING REVIEW (PARA 1B REFTTEL) AND TO MORE EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO NATO SUPPORTING AND OTHER COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS IN SECTION ON CRITERIA FOR MULTILATERAL GOALS (PARA 1C REFTTEL).

3. WE ASSUME SPRING REVIEW PROCEDURES BEING DISCUSSED IN EWG WOULD ENCOMPASS RATIONALIZATION ACTIVITIES AND WOULD RESPOND TO PARAGRAPH 33 OF CURRENT DRAFT REPORT TO MINISTERS ON RATIONALIZATION AND SPECIALIZATION OF DEFENSE TASKS. WHILE WE CAN SEE POSSIBLE NEED FOR REPORTS EACH SPRING AND FALL ON PROGRESS IN RATIONALIZATION, SPRING REVIEW WOULD OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A THOROUGH ANNUAL REVIEW OF ALL NATO DEFENSE ACTIVITY, INCLUDING

RATIONALIZATION, AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE PRECEDING FALL REVIEW OF NATIONAL FORCE PLANS.

4. WE HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY WITH THE TITLE "MULTILATERAL FORCE GOALS," SINCE IT COULD TEND TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM SUPPORTING AND COOPERATIVE PROGRESS. WE WOULD PREFER SOME OTHER TITLE OF BROADER SCOPE SUCH AS "MULTILATERAL PROGRAM GOALS."

5. WE WOULD OPPOSE CONCEPT OF HOLDING SPRING REVIEW ONLY EVERY SECOND YEAR. WE BELIEVE ANNUAL REVIEW OF PROGRESS OR LACK THEREOF IN NATO SUPPORTING AND COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE. IN OUR VIEW, MINISTERS SHOULD HAVE THE BENEFIT OF AN OVERALL APPRAISAL OF PROGRESS IN NATO SUPPORTING AND COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS EACH YEAR, TO SUPPLEMENT ANNUAL FALL APPRAISAL OF NATIONAL FORCE PLANS.

6. AS A GENERAL COMMENT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONSIDERED MISSION VIEWS ON DEFENSE PLANNING MECHANISM OVERALL, IN LIGHT OF EWG EFFORT IN SPRING REVIEW, MC EFFORT TO DEVELOP PARALLEL CYCLES FOR ARMAMENTS AND FORCES, NEED FOR A MECHANISM FOR MONITORING STANDARDIZATION, AND NEED FOR FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM FOR FLEXIBILITY STUDIES. IN OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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VIEW THERE IS A DANGER OF FRAGMENTING THE REVIEW OF DEFENSE PLANNING BY HAVING TOO MANY INDEPENDENT STREAMS OF REPORTS SUBMITTED TO MINISTERS. PERMREPS OF COURSE STAND AS THE FINAL COORDINATING OR REVIEW BODY PRIOR TO MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION, BUT WHEN REPORTS COME TO THEM AT THE LAST MINUTE THERE IS LITTLE OPPORTUNITY FOR REFLECTION. THERE MAY UELL BE A NEED TO RATIONALIZE THE DEFENSE PLANNING SYSTEM.

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